

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04155 181718Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W  
-----061556 191957Z /41  
R 181701Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, AFSP  
SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
RSO MADRID

REF: STATE 95635

1. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW THE SECURITY WORKLOAD IN SPAIN  
FULLY JUSTIFIES A FULL-TIME RSO HERE. WE QUESTION,  
THEREFORE, THE WISDOM OF RESTORING THE STATUS QUO ANTE,  
AND REDUCING THE RSO MADRID POSITION TO A PART-TIME  
OPERATION, EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS THE TRADITIONAL PATTERN.

2. THE UNRESOLVED QUESTION THIS PROPOSAL RAISES, AND  
NOT ADDRESSED IN REFTEL, IS WHO IS TO ASSUME THE RSO'S  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD DURING HIS ABSENCES ON  
TRIPS TO PORTUGAL. THE FACT IS THAT WITH LEAN STAFFING  
AND ONLY ONE AMERICAN GSO, NEITHER THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
COUNSELOR NOR THE GSO HAVE THE SLACK IN WORKLOAD  
REQUIRED TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL SECURITY WORK.

3. WITH THE DEATH OF FRANCO IN 1975, THE TRADITIONAL  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04155 181718Z

STAFFING NEEDS OF THE EMBASSY WENT DOWN THE DRAIN, AND A  
NEW ERA BEGAN, BOTH IN SPAIN AND WITHIN THE EMBASSY.  
A SIMPLE STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT TO MIRROR THIS CHANGE  
IS THE TELEGRAPHIC WORKLOAD:

- ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION ALL EMBASSY  
- CABLES CABLES

|      |        |        |
|------|--------|--------|
| 1974 | 2,200  | 28,000 |
| 1977 | 10,800 | 71,600 |

DURING 1977, TWO NEW EMBASSY ORGANIZATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED: THE COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAFF, HEADED BY A MAJOR GENERAL WITH A CURRENT STAFF OF 26, AND FAA WITH A STAFF OF 5. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN AMERICAN COMMUNICATOR, THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE AMERICAN STAFFING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. IN FACT, THE ASSIST GSO POSITION WAS ABOLISHED IN OCTOBER 1974, AND THE RANK OF OTHER OFFICERS HAS DECLINED AS FOLLOWS:

| -   | APRIL 1975 | APRIL 1978 |
|-----|------------|------------|
| GSO | 03         | 04         |
| B&F | 03         | 05         |
| PER | 03         | 05         |
| RSO | 03         | 05         |
| CRO | 04         | 04         |

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION HAS LESS STAFF SUPPORT, IN NUMBERS AND IN RANK, NOW THAN THREE YEARS AGO, DESPITE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED DEMANDS PLACED UPON IT. WITH THIS STAFFING AND IN THE FACE OF THESE DEMANDS, NEITHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 04155 181718Z

THE GSO NOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR HAS THE TIME TO BE THE PART-TIME SECURITY OFFICER. CONSEQUENTLY, ALL NON-EMERGENCY SECURITY WORK IN SPAIN DURING THE RSO'S ABSENCE WOULD BE HELD FOR HIS RETURN, AND EVEN THE EMERGENCY WORK WOULD IMPOSE A BURDEN ON OTHER, FULLY ENGAGED OFFICERS. FOR THESE REASONS THE EMBASSY IS AGAINST THE REALIGNMENT AS COMMUNICATED IN REFTEL, AND SUGGESTS CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES:

(A) ASSIGN SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PORTUGAL TO THE RSO IN LONDON OR PARIS, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE TWO AMERICAN SECURITY OFFICERS.

(B) AUGMENT THE OFFICER STAFFING OF EMBASSY MADRID BY ONE AMERICAN IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (DEPUTY ADMIN OFFICER OR SUPERVISORY GSO) TO HELP ABSORB EXISTING WORKLOAD AND SERVE AS SECURITY OFFICER IN THE ABSENCE OF THE RSO. STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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